

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00
EB-08 COME-00 /107 W
-----040509 010338Z /75

R 310800Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2627
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 1080

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, ENRG, AO
SUBJECT: NORMALIZATION IN SHABA: PETRO SEP TO RECOMMENCE
SUPPLIES IN SOUTHWESTERN SHABA?

REF: LUBUMBASHI 1016

1. PETRO SEP, ZAIRE'S NATIONAL PETROLEUM IMPORT/DISTRIBUTING
COMPANY, CLOSED ITS OUTLETS AND STOPPED DISTRIBUTING FUEL
IN SOUTHWESTERN SHABA/ANGOLAN BORDER AREA (TOWNS OF KASAJI
AND DILOLO SPECIFICALLY) AT TIME OF SHABA ONE 80-DAY WAR
IN MARCH 1977.

2. PETRO SEP LUBUMBASHI REPRESENTATIVE FERDINAND SNOY
(SECONDED FROM PETROFINA BELGIUM) CALLED ON CONSUL AUGUST
30 ON BASIS OF TRIP CONSUL HAD MADE TO THAT AREA AUGUST
16 (REFTEL) TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF PETRO SEP'S RECOMMEN-
DING SUPPLY IN KASAJI-DILOLO AREA. CONSUL PROVIDED SNOY
ASSESSMENT OF FAZ AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS AND GENERAL SITUA-
TION THAT AREA BASED ON VISIT AND MEETINGS THERE AND INDI-
CATED DIRE NEED OF FAZ, CIVIL AUTHORITIES, AND CHURCH
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PERSONNEL IN THAT AREA FOR PETROLEUM SUPPLIES, OVER-
ALL A CAUTIOUSLY POSITIVE ASSESSMENT.

3. SNOY SAID THAT PETRO SEP HAD SENT AN ADVANCE PARTY
OF ZAIRIAN STAFF TO AREA FOUR WEEKS AGO TO INVESTI-
GATE STATE OF STORAGE FACILITIES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
AND ON BASIS OF THEIR REPORT ESTIMATED RESTART TIME OF

15-21 DAYS. (SUPPLIES WOULD GO TO KASAJI AND DILOLO BY RAIL.) HE CONCLUDED DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL TO KINSHASA AT WEEKEND AND WOULD RECOMMEND THAT PETRO SEP RECOMMENCE OPERATIONS AT KASAJI AND DILOLO.

4. COMMENT: RECOMMENCEMENT OF SUPPLY OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS COULD GREATLY INCREASE FAZ CAPACITY TO PATROL ANGOLAN BORDER AREA. (OVER PAST MONTH, INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES A LACK OF FUEL OF A MAGNITUDE TO VIRTUALLY PRECLUDE ANY FAZ PATROLLING BEYOND LOCAL FOOT PATROLS AROUND BASES OF KASAJI AND DILOLO.) IN ADDITION, LOCAL AVAILABILITY OF FUEL COULD GREATLY FACILITATE LARGER RELIEF OPERATIONS, RECOMMENCEMENT OF NORMAL MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES, RETURN OF EXPATRIATE MISSIONARY PERSONNEL, AND BEGINNING OF SOME NORMALIZATION OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHWESTERN SHABA. WE THUS HOPE THAT SNOY'S RECOMMENDATION WILL BE ACCEPTED BY KINSHASA. IF PETRO SEP DOES REOPEN, WE CAN THEN ONLY HOPE THAT THE FAZ WILL NOT "LIBERATE" THE NEWLY ARRIVED FUEL SUPPLIES WITHOUT RECOMPENSE WHICH, SNOY TELLS US, WILL CAUSE PETRO SEP TO CLOSE BACK DOWN AGAIN.
SIMPSON

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